

INTELLOFAX 29 COUNTRY <u>Germany (Soviet Zone)</u>		CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY</u> Approved For Release 2006/08/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R012200360009-2 REPORT NO. <u>0360009-2</u>	
TOPIC	<u>Laerz Airfield</u>		<u>25X1</u>
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		DATE PREPARED <u>6 May 1952</u>	
		<u>25X1</u>	
PAGES	<u>3</u> ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)		
REMARKS			
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1. Between 16 and 22 March 1952, a MiG-15 crashed at Laerz airfield immediately after its take off. The pilot had to be hospitalized. On 23 March, the Rechlin restricted area was off limits for German personnel. Several detonations were heard. The former German engine test stand was allegedly demolished on that day. On 30 March, the following observations were made in the restricted area. Building No 19 and a building directly south of building No 13 and settlement No 29 quartered a headquarters unit. Building No 7 was being converted into a locksmith shop and house No 4 into a dispensary. An observation post was on top of building No 18.
 2. On 16 March, about 100 young Soviet soldiers without weapons and luggage arrived at the Ellerholz railroad station. They were picked up by an officer and several sergeants. In mid-March, the gap in the fence at both ends of the main runway was widened from 100 to 300 meters. The fence in the northwestern portion of the installation was not yet completed.

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4. On 8 April, there was individual flying by swept-back jet fighters and single-engine, low-wing monoplanes. On 9 April, there was little flying during the day but some flying by jet fighters at night. On 10 April, there was intensive flying by formations of MiG-15s. The largest formation observed consisted of 22 planes. At 6:25 p.m., a formation of 21 jet bombers heading southwest was observed. The formation underwent a simulated attack by 22 MiG-15s. After crossing the field, 12 jet bombers continued to head southwest while 16 turned to the north. On 11 April, there was intensive flying by MiG-15s and type-29 planes. At 8 a.m., on 13 April, [redacted] 41 MiG-15s and type-29 planes, 4 single-engine, low-wing monoplanes fitted with radial engines, 4 biplanes and 2 twin-engine, low-wing monoplanes fitted with double rudder assemblies were observed at the installation. At 4:30 p.m. on 14 April, only four MiG-15s were seen at the field.

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5. Between 3:15 and 5:45 p.m. on 3 April, 38 swept-back jet fighters, 1 B-25, 1 Pe-2, 4 single-engine, low-wing monoplanes fitted with radial engines and 3 biplanes were observed at the field. The planes were parked in six groups of 5 to 6 aircraft each along the southern boundary of the installation. Two swept-back jet fighters were parked individually. (2) There was flying by single-engine, low-wing monoplanes. Visibility was about 5 km, and the cloud ceiling was at an altitude of about 800 meters. The aircraft remained below the cloud ceiling. Two radio trucks fitted with rod antennas, one with a plexiglass cupola, were parked at the eastern end of the runway. Four tank trucks were also seen there. About 5:30 p.m., five jeeps were observed towing one swept-back jet fighter each to the eastern end of the runway. [redacted] night flying was conducted by these planes after 6 p.m.

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6. Between 3:45 and 5 p.m. on 4 April, 25 swept-back jet fighters, 2 twin-engine planes, 5 single-engine, low-wing monoplanes fitted with radial engines and 3 biplanes were observed parked at the field. Not all of the planes parked in the aircraft dispersal areas southeast of the flight control station were seen. There was flying by individual single-engine low-wing monoplanes during the day and by jet fighters at night. Three railroad tank cars were seen on the airfield spur track.

7. Between 10:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. on 5 April, a total of 24 swept-back jet fighters, 1 single-engine, light blue plane fitted with an in-line engine, 1 B-25, 1 Pe-2 and 3 biplanes were counted at the field. Other aircraft believed to be parked at the field could not be seen. At 7:30 a.m., 6 type-29 planes fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks landed on the main runway. At 11:10 a.m., the six alert planes parked at the southern end of the short runway took off in groups of two at distances of about 200 meters. Individual flying by single-engine, low-wing monoplanes was

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also observed. Five railroad tank cars were parked on the spur track.

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8. At noon on 6 April, 45 aircraft, 6 of which were identified as MIG-15s, were observed at the field. On 11 April, 26 swept-back jet fighters were counted and another 10 estimated aircraft were parked at the field.

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9. On 5 April, it was observed that the fence around the airfield was completed except for a 400-meter stretch on the northern boundary.

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10. Aircraft observed at the field between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 11 April included 22 swept-back jet fighters, 2 twin-engine planes with a double rudder assembly, 3 single-engine planes fitted with radial engines and 3 biplanes. Flying was conducted by swept-back jet fighters from noon until darkness. Between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on 14 April, 26 swept-back jet fighters were observed at the installation. Eight of them were parked in two groups at the western end of the runway. The first four aircraft took off at 10 a.m., the next four about 15 minutes later. Their return was not observed. About 10:30 a.m., four swept-back jet fighters fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks were towed by jeeps to the take-off point. About 5 minutes later the turbines of the planes were started. One minute later the planes took off individually. Another group of four swept-back jet fighters fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks took off about 10 minutes later. These planes were likewise not observed returning. Another group of four swept-back jet fighters fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks took off at 1:30 p.m.

11. At 10:30 a.m. on 16 April, 35 swept-back jet fighters, a twin-engine plane fitted with double rudder assembly, 3 single-engine planes fitted with radial engines, and 2 biplanes were observed at the field. At 10:30 a.m., five swept-back jet fighters fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks, [redacted] dispersed areas. About 11 a.m., five swept-back jet fighters took off individually for local flights. Flying continued until 6 p.m. [redacted]

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12. The fuel dump in the southeastern portion of the field was observed [redacted] Twelve tanks each 5 meters long and 2.5 meters in diameter and five tanks each about 3 meters long and 1.5 meters in diameter were seen. (4)

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Comments.

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- (2) The parking of aircraft in groups of six confirms the presence at the field of six squadrons which comprise two regiments.

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- (4) The report confirms previous information according to which two fighter regiments are believed to be stationed in Laerz. Slightly more than 40 MIG-15s are believed to be assigned to the two units.

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